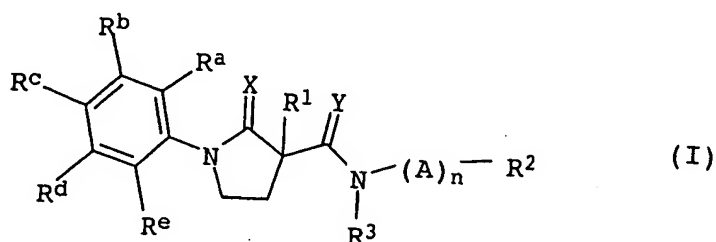


Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A compound which is a 1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide of the formula I



where the variables R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , X, Y, A, n, R^a , R^b , R^c , R^d and R^e are as defined below:

R^1 is hydrogen, OH, Cl, Br, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkynyl, $C(0)R^4$ or $OC(0)R^4$;

R^2 and R^3 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl, C_3 - C_{10} -cycloalkyl, C_7 - C_{10} -polycycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_{10} -alkynyl, C_5 - C_{10} -cycloalkenyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, phenyl or 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl, where the 9 last-mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or contain substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, CN, NO_2 , COOH, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 , $C(0)NR^8SO_2R^{13}$, $C(0)NR^8R^9$ and 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl, and wherein each heterocyclyl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, a group

NR^{10} and a group SO_2 , and, if

appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members;

and/or may contain a ring-fused phenyl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted;

or

R^2 and R^3 together with the group $\text{N}(\text{A})_n$ to which they are attached, form a saturated 3- to 7-membered heterocycle which, in addition to the nitrogen atom, may contain 1, 2 or a further 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR^{10} and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members;

R^a , R^b , R^c , R^d and R^e independently of one another are hydrogen, OH, CN, NO_2 , halogen, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_{10}$ -alkyl, $\text{C}_3\text{-C}_6$ -cycloalkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ -alkenyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ -alkynyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -haloalkyl, $\text{C}_2\text{-C}_6$ -haloalkenyl, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkoxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -haloalkoxy, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkylthio, $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -haloalkylthio, $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{R}^4$, COOR^5 , NR^6R^7 , $\text{C}(\text{O})\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{NR}^8\text{R}^9$, $\text{S}(\text{O})\text{R}^{11}$, $\text{S}(\text{O})_2\text{R}^{11}$ or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkoxy- $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_6$ -alkyl; or

two adjacent radicals R^a to R^e , together with the atoms to which they are attached, form a 5-, 6- or 7-membered saturated or unsaturated ring which may contain one or two heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of nitrogen, oxygen, sulfur and a group NR^{10} as ring-forming atom and/or may carry one, two, three or four radicals selected from the group consisting of halogen and $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkyl;

X, Y independently of one another are oxygen or sulfur;

n is 0 or 1;

A is 0, $\text{S}(\text{O})_k$ or NR^{12} , where k is 0, 1 or 2;

R^4 , R^8 , R^9 independently of one another are hydrogen or $\text{C}_1\text{-C}_4$ -alkyl;

R^5 , R^{11} are C_1 - C_4 -alkyl;

R^6 , R^7 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkynyl, $C(=O)R^4$, $COOR^5$ or $S(=O)_2R^{11}$;

R^{10} , R^{12} independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkenyl or C_3 - C_6 -alkynyl; and

R^{13} is phenyl which is unsubstituted or carries 1, 2, 3 or 4 substituents, where the substituents are selected from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, cyano, OH, alkyl, alkoxy, haloalkyl, haloalkoxy, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(=O)NR^8R^9$;

or an agriculturally useful salt ~~of~~ thereof.

2. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound

as claimed in claim 1 in which

R^2 and R^3 independently of one another are hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl, C_3 - C_{10} -cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_8 -alkynyl, C_5 - C_{10} -cycloalkenyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, phenyl or 3-to 7-membered heterocyclyl, where the 8 last-mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or ~~contain~~ substituted by 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, CN, NO_2 , COOH, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 , $C(=O)NR^8R^9$, and wherein each heterocyclyl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR^{10} and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members; or

R^2 and R^3 , together with the group N-(A)_n to which they are attached, form a saturated 3- to 7-membered heterocycle which, in addition to the nitrogen atom, may contain 1, 2 or a further 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur and a group NR^{10} and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members.

3. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in claim 1 ~~or 2~~ wherein R^1 is hydrogen.

4. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R^3 is hydrogen or C_1 - C_4 -alkyl.

5. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein R^2 is C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_6 -alkynyl, C_5 - C_6 -cycloalkenyl, substituted or unsubstituted phenyl, C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, where C_1 - C_6 -alkyl and C_3 - C_6 cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may contain a at least one radical selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(=O)NR^8R^9$.

6. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein X and Y represent oxygen.

7. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein $n = 0$.

8. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the radicals R^a , R^b , R^c , R^d and R^e are selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, halogen, CN, C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, OCH_3 , CF_3 , CHF_2 , OCF_3 and $OCHF_2$.

9. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein not more than 3 of the radicals R^a , R^b , R^c , R^d and R^e are different from hydrogen.

10. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein 2 or 3 of the radicals R^a , R^b , R^c , R^d and R^e are different from hydrogen.

11. (Currently Amended) A ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide~~ compound as claimed in claim 9 ~~or 10~~ wherein the radicals R^a and R^e represent hydrogen.

12. (Currently Amended) A composition, comprising a herbicidally effective amount of at least one ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, and at least one inert liquid and/or solid carrier, and, if desired, at least one surfactant.

13. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, which comprises allowing a herbicidally effective amount of at least one ~~1-phenylpyrrolidin-2-one-3-carboxamide of the formula I or an agriculturally useful salt of I~~ compound as claimed in ~~any of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 to act on plants, their habitat or on seed.

14. (New) A method for controlling unwanted vegetation, comprising applying to plants, their habitat or to their seed a herbicidally effective amount of at least one compound of claim 1.

15. (New) The method of claim 14, wherein said compound is applied at an application rate of from 0.001 to 3.0 kg/ha.

16. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the application rate of said compound is 0.01 to 1.0 kg/ha.

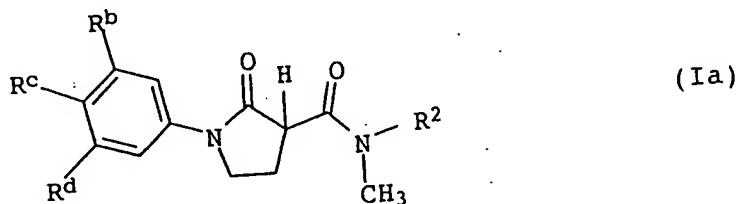
17. (New) A compound of claim 1, wherein n is 1 and A, is oxygen, a group N-R¹², where R¹² = hydrogen or alkyl, or a group SO₂.

18. (New) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^a, R^b, R^c, R^d, R^e are independently hydrogen, halogen, CN, C₁-C₄-alkyl, C₁-C₄-haloalkyl, C₁-C₄-alkoxy or C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy.

19. (New) A compound of claim 1, wherein R¹ is hydrogen, OH, C1, Br, C₁-C₆-alkyl or OC(O)R⁴.

20. (New) A compound of claim 1, wherein R^2 is C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_8 -alkynyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl, C_5 - C_8 -cycloalkenyl or C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, where C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl and C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl may be partially or fully halogenated and/or may carry one or two radicals selected from the group consisting of C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 , $C(=O)NR^8R^9$, phenyl which may be unsubstituted or substituted by 1, 2 or 3 substituents selected from the group consisting of halogen, nitro, OH, CN, C_1 - C_6 -alkyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 and $C(=O)NR^8R^9$.

21. (New) A compound of formula (Ia)



wherein

R^b , R^c , R^d independently of one another are hydrogen, OH, CN, NO_2 , halogen, C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl, C_3 - C_6 -cycloalkyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkenyl, C_2 - C_6 -alkynyl, C_1 - C_6 -haloalkyl, C_2 - C_6 -haloalkenyl, C_1 - C_6 -alkoxy, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkoxy, C_1 - C_6 -alkylthio, C_1 - C_4 -haloalkylthio, $C(=O)R^4$, $COOR^5$, NR^6R^7 , $C(=O)NR^8R^9$, $S(=O)_2NR^8R^9$, $S(=O)R^{11}$, $S(=O)_2R^{11}$ or C_1 - C_4 -alkoxy- C_1 - C_6 -alkyl; and

R^2 is hydrogen, C_1 - C_{10} -alkyl, C_3 - C_{10} -cycloalkyl, C_7 - C_{10} -polycycloalkyl, C_3 - C_8 -alkenyl, C_3 - C_{10} -alkynyl, C_5 - C_{10} -cycloalkenyl, C_3 - C_8 -cycloalkyl- C_1 - C_4 -alkyl, phenyl or 3- to

7-membered heterocyclyl, where the 9 last-mentioned groups may be unsubstituted, partially or fully halogenated and/or contain 1, 2 or 3 radicals selected from the group consisting of OH, CN NO₂, COOH, C₁-C₆-alkyl, C₁-C₆-haloalkyl, C₁-C₆-alkoxy, C₁-C₄-haloalkoxy, C₂-C₆-alkenyl, C₂-C₆ alkynyl, C₁-C₆-alkylthio, C₁-C₄ -haloalkylthio, unsubstituted or substituted phenyl, COOR⁵, NR⁶R⁷, C(O)NR⁸SO₂R¹³, C(O)NR⁸R⁹ and 3- to 7-membered heterocyclyl, wherein each heterocyclyl may contain 1, 2 or 3 heteroatoms selected from the group consisting of oxygen, nitrogen, sulfur, a group NR¹⁰ and a group SO₂, and, if appropriate, 1, 2 or 3 carbonyl groups and/or thiocarbonyl groups as ring members; and/or may contain a ring-fused phenyl ring which is unsubstituted or substituted.